

From: drupal_admin <drupal_admin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 4:42 PM
To: HarborComments
Subject: Harbor Comments

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Submitted values are:

Your Name: (b) (6)

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Your Comments: The Willamette River is a precious resource for the entire state. As someone who lives upriver, I understand that my respect for the river is a conduit for my entire community, as part of an even greater network of communities that depend on the Willamette's waters for food, drinking water and recreation. The "Superfund" designation is reserved for the most contaminated and complex sites in the country - covering more than 2,000 acres, extending 10 miles from Portland to the Columbia River and contaminated with over 100 toxic substances - it's time to take action! More than 140 businesses and other entities are responsible for the pollution and SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE. This pollution harms wildlife, our environment, our communities and our economy. The river is so contaminated that the Oregon Health Authority says that it is unsafe for a healthy adult to eat more than 8 oz of resident fish per month. As an avid fisherperson, kayaker and canoeist, I am requesting the EPA TAKE ACTION using Alternative G, including dredging areas of high human use, ecological value, and high risk of re-contamination of the river. EPA should set much clearer timelines and metrics for success including setting an explicit date by which Portland Harbor specific fish consumption advisories will be lifted, and that ALL members of our community can eat fish safely, including pregnant women. Contaminated uplands in association with the river should also be cleaned so as not to re-contaminate the waterway again through the groundwater supply along with eliminating the confined disposal facility which would create a permanent toxic waste dump in our river. Additionally, The community at large should have adequate opportunities for input during the design and construction phase of the cleanup, as well as access to monitoring data for habitat, wildlife population, and fish tissue samples as well as quality of life issues. EPA should also make a stronger effort to address environmental justice issues, including reviewing and correcting significant deficiencies in its public engagement strategies for future phases of the Superfund process and delineating strategies for ensuring the jobs, economic benefits and other benefits associated with the Superfund process to the local community and particularly to underserved communities that have been impacted by contamination in Portland Harbor.